

their lives. They are focused on helping their child get better, and feel better. They want to do everything possible to bring a smile to the face of their child.

The Lexington Dream Factory has helped those smiles appear. Since it was organized in 1988, it has granted over 350 dreams, bringing laughter and joy to the faces of these critically-ill children, and to the faces of their families. Dreams have ranged from Disney World family vacations, to shopping sprees at local stores.

I want to salute the Dream Factory and offer my best wishes to all the families gathering on March 28th. I'm hopeful this reunion will prove to be a celebration of life, remembering those children who are no longer with us and giving strength to those who are fighting to get well.

SCIENCE IS THE FOUNDATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, strong math and science curricula is crucial to our American youths' education. The results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) shows that American high school seniors rank near the bottom in math and science education when compared to their international counterparts. In addition, there are 346,000 unfilled information technology jobs nationwide. In each of our districts, there is a lack of skilled professionals for information technology jobs particularly related to the lack of specialized math, science, and technology high school curriculum.

In order to solve both of these problems, I am introducing The Information Technology Partnership Act. This bill creates a partnership between Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and local businesses to provide a sound math, science, and technology curriculum coupled with college internships and scholarships through the National Science Foundation. The Information Technology Partnership Act creates an additional grant program through the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Urban Systemic Initiative (USI) Program. The USI Program focuses primarily on math and science by using mentor teachers to help educators introduce an innovative and engaging math and science curriculum to K-12 students in the inner city.

This "IT Partnership" grant is aimed at improving scientific and mathematical literacy of all students in urban communities while fostering a student's career in the information technology field. This partnership consists of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and local businesses investing in the educational development of the youth in their district. The specialized curriculum and scholarships would assist students in filling future information technology jobs. Specifically, the "IT Partnership" grant focuses on math and science curricula for students in grades 10-12, and offers internships and scholarship opportunities for students ma-

joring in fields related to information technology.

Under the NSF's USI Program, eligibility for the "IT Partnership" grant is limited to the cities with the largest number of school-age children (ages 5 to 17) living in economic poverty, as determined by the 1990 census. The following cities are eligible for this grant: Atlanta, Baltimore, Bayamon, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, El Paso, Fresno, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, New Orleans, New York City, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Ponce, San Antonio, San Diego, San Juan, and St. Louis.

This grant awards five LEAs \$300,000 to develop math and science, and technology curricula for grades 10-12, and to train teachers in technology. In order for LEAs to win this grant, they must enter into a partnership with businesses in their community. These businesses would commit to provide to LEAs, at a minimum, internships, scholarships, mentoring programs, and computer products. Local businesses would promise a LEA scholarship money which would be awarded to high school seniors who will be majoring in fields associated with information technology (math, computer science, engineering) at 2-year or 4-year colleges. The partnership between the LEAs and local business sponsors would determine the amount and number of scholarships given.

It is important to note that the LEAs will have direct responsibility for overseeing the program. NSF's role is limited to determining which five (5) cities meet the criteria for eligibility. The NSF Director will award the "IT Partnership" grants to the 5 cities with the best package of business sponsorship and curricula development. In addition, priority will be given to LEAs which grant scholarships to students who are first generation college students, have a strong desire to pursue a career in the information technology field, show scholastic achievement, and submit teacher recommendations.

In addition to the NSF's USI's reporting guidelines, a longitudinal study will be submitted to Congress after four years from the awarding of the grant.

DOBROSLAV PARAGA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to acknowledge the efforts of Dobroslav Paraga, a political opposition leader from Croatia, to bring about democratic and human rights reforms in his country. As our colleagues are probably aware, we recently introduced a resolution, H. Res. 375, expressing our concern about repression by the Government of Croatia of these rights. In 1989, Mr. Paraga met with Members of both Chambers of the Congress and as a result S. Res. 169, calling for respect of human rights throughout the former Yugoslavia, passed the Senate and a companion resolution, H. Res. 240 was introduced in the House.

Mr. Paraga has been an eloquent spokesman for the rights of the citizens of Croatia and we, in the Congress, respect his commitment and courage. As a result of his efforts, he has been the target of harassment, political trials and several suspicious assassination attempts. Soon Mr. Paraga will be returning to his home in Zagreb and we will be monitoring his treatment by the Croatian government. We are inserting a statement by Attorney Joseph A. Morris, who successfully represented Mr. Paraga as co-counsel in the trial that followed his last visit to the Congress in 1993. Attorney Morris is a former Assistant Attorney General of the United States and is President of the Midwest Region of B'nai B'rith in the United States. We believe Members will be interested in his statement which follows:

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH A. MORRIS¹ ON POLITICAL LIBERTY IN CROATIA AND THE CASE OF DOBROSLAV PARAGA

In 1993,¹ in association with Zvonimir Hodak, barrister and counselor at law of Zagreb, Croatia, I accepted the defense of Dobroslav Paraga, then a Member of the Croatian Parliament and President of the Croatian Party of Rights, which was then the largest opposition party in the Republic of Croatia, against charges tantamount to an indictment for treason. The case was tried before a military court in Zagreb.

Although the case of *Military Public Prosecutor v. Paraga* resulted in a happy outcome—Mr. Paraga was acquitted—I nonetheless remain concerned, now more than four years later, about the chilling effect that the mere bringing of the case has had upon freedoms of speech and association in Croatia. The development of strong democratic institutions and traditions depends upon the establishment of a free and robust political life, including competing political parties and open political debate. Objective observers must register dismay at the lack of progress in such development in Croatia.

Mr. Paraga, then 33, married and the father of three young children, has been charged with speaking publicly, within and without Croatia, to the "embarrassment" of the President of the Croatian Republic, Franjo Tudjman. Mr. Paraga had excoriated the Tudjman regime's participation in "ethnic cleansing" directed at Serbs and Moslems within Croatia and at Moslems in Bosnia. He called for Croatia to respect the individual human rights of its residents and neighbors, irrespective of their religious and ethnic backgrounds and national and political allegiances. He condemned the regime, dominated by former communists, for dragging its feet in building Croatia's free-market economy. Some of these charges derived from a speech that Mr. Paraga gave to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Identical charges against Mr. Paraga were dismissed in 1992 by Croatia's civilian courts. The Supreme Court of Croatia ultimately ordered Mr. Paraga's release from the "interrogation jail" where he had been held by the regime during the pendency of his case. Two days later President Tudjman removed the Chief Justice of Croatia from office. The regime thereafter constituted a special military tribunal in Zagreb for the purpose of hearing the same charges against Mr.